

was united in marriage to Miss Catherine F. Carroll, who was born and reared in Shelby county, where her father, the late Phasant B. Carroll, was a representative farmer. Of the four children of this marriage three are living—Nona Virginia is the wife of Vergil F. Hirring, a farmer of this county; Thomas is a resident of the city of Seattle, Washington; and Nellie is the wife of L. E. Carson, of Shelby county.

#### WILLIAM R. TURNER.

No monarch is so independent as the farmer who holds title to productive acres of ground, and there is a decidedly ethical significance in the sovereignty of the soil. No man was ever contaminated by association with nature, and to our nation the farm has given brain and brawn. Along whatever paths their ambition may lead them, men who have known the solace of association and generous companionship with nature ever find allurements in the great basic industry under whose influence they were reared. It is emphatically one of the attractive features of this historical compilation that within its pages are found represented many of its successful and enterprising farmers and stock-growers, and not a few of these claim Shelby county as the place of their nativity. Of this number is William R. Turner, who is the owner of one of the fine farm estates of the county and who has made so distinctive a specialty and success of the breeding of high-grade sheep that he has gained the local sobriquet of "Sheep Turner", to which, owing to the wide

reputation he has attained in this field of enterprise, he can find no objection.

William R. Turner was born on his father's homestead farm, in Black Creek township, this county, on February 12, 1856, and is a son of Holman and Catherine A. (Settles) Turner, the former of whom was born in Kentucky on February 21, 1828, and the latter of whom was born in Virginia on June 21, 1833. The marriage of this worthy couple was solemnized on February 6, 1851, and of their nine children seven are now living, namely: Mary Jane, who is the wife of Rev. William N. Wainwright, a clergyman of the M. E. Church, South, and now a resident of Monette, Missouri; William R., who figures as the immediate subject of this review; Susan C., who is the wife of Newton Garrison, deceased, of Bethel township; Lillian, who is the wife of John J. Hewitt, of Shelbyville, this county; James, who is a representative farmer of Shelby county, as is also Charles; and Anna, who is the wife of Thomas Herbst, of this county. The honored father came to Missouri in an early day and located on a farm about ten miles east of Shelbyville, where he became one of the substantial pioneer agriculturists of Shelby county. He was a successful mule dealer, buying mules' colts and keeping them until three years old and had a very fine bunch of mules on hand when death claimed him on December 4, 1866, at which time he was but thirty-nine years of age. His widow now survives and lives on the old home place two miles north of Shelbyville. Both were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in

politics he was aligned as a stalwart and intelligent supporter of the principles and policies of the Democratic party. He was held in high esteem as a man of inviolable integrity and honor and as a citizen of sterling worth.

William R. Turner is indebted to the district schools of his native county for his early educational discipline, which has been effectively supplemented by the valuable lessons gained in the broad school of experience, and he was reared to manhood under the invigorating influences of the farm. After leaving school he engaged in farming on rented land, and he thus continued operations until 1880, after which he passed about two years as clerk in mercantile establishments, and for a time he owned and conducted a furniture store at Shelbyville and clerked in Captain Collier's store one year. In 1882 he removed to a farm in Black Creek township, about two and one-half miles north of Shelbyville, where he has since maintained his home and where, through his well directed energies and progressive ideas he has attained a high degree of success, being now the owner of a well improved farm of 286 acres, the major portion of which is available for cultivation. Mr. Turner has made a success of handling pure bred stock along all lines, his motto being, "The Best Is None Too Good."

In 1885 he began the breeding of pure blooded Shropshire sheep, and was so successful in this undertaking that in 1893 he exhibited his sheep at the World's Fair in Chicago, and carried off first honors in this class, competing with the entire world.

In 1886 Mr. Turner turned his at-

tention to the breeding of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has been more than successful in this undertaking—he often pays as high as \$300 for his male hogs—and his herd is now considered among the best in the state.

In addition to this he is largely interested in the breeding of "Short Horn" cattle, and for some years held annual sales at Shelbina and other points in the county, but on account of the vast amount of labor connected with this department, he has abandoned that feature of the business and now carries but a limited number of exceptionally fine bred animals on the home farm.

Mr. Turner's success in life has been due to his own efforts, having never had the advantages of capital, other than that he borrowed on his own security, but by fair dealing and strict attention to business he soon gained for himself a reputation for honesty that enabled him to secure from the banks any amount of capital needed to successfully conduct his business. He is known as one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of the county and as a man of much enterprise, ambition and progressiveness, while his course has been so directed in all the relations of life that he has not been denied the fullest measure of popular confidence and esteem in the county that has been his home from the time of his nativity. In politics he is aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

On September 11, 1881, Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Doyle, who was born and reared in

Saline county, this state, where her father, the late B. G. Doyle, was a successful farmer. Of the six children of this union, one, a son, Gordie W. Turner, died at the age of two years, and the other five are still living, namely: Adelaide May, who is the wife of Marion Feeley, a farmer of this county; and (Vera Florence, Cleveland Doyle, are in Colorado) Wade Grafflin, and Richard Lee, are at the parental home.

#### SENATOR GEORGE W. HUMPHREY.

Eminent in his profession, distinguished in official relations and upright in his private life, Hon. George W. Humphrey, one of the leading lawyers of Shelby county and state senator from the Ninth Missouri senatorial district, well justifies his right to the high place he holds in the councils of the state and the confidence and esteem of the people. In every relation, public and private, he has exhibited an elevated standard of excellence and proven himself to be a **high** type of the citizenship of the state.

Senator Humphrey was born near Rushville, Illinois, on August 21, 1865. He is a son of William T. and Mary (Rodifer) Humphrey, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Missouri. The father was a farmer and lumber merchant, whose undertakings were extensive and profitable, and gave scope for the full exercise of his superior and commanding mental faculties. He is now living retired from active pursuits at Shelbina. Always patriotic and devoted to the welfare of his country, when the Civil war broke out he followed his

convictions into the Confederate army, and during the momentous conflict which shook this country to its very foundations, rendered active and heroic service to the cause he favored. He participated in numerous engagements, and on one occasion faced it in captivity, being sentenced to be shot at Palmyra with a number of other prisoners. A few hours before the time fixed for the execution of the sentence he was released, and thus escaped the fate he seemed destined to, which the other prisoners suffered. It is worthy of note in this connection, that the first money ever earned by his son, Senator George W. Humphrey, was expended for a handsome monument, which he caused to be erected in the cemetery at Palmyra to the memory of Hiram Smith, the man who was substituted for his father at the time of the execution of Confederate prisoners at that place.

The family, on the father's side, is of English ancestry, but has long been resident in this country. The grandfather of the senator, William Henry Humphrey, was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, and came to Missouri in 1839, making the journey on the rivers. He located in Lewis county, where he took up a tract of wild land and by skillful and systematic husbandry transformed it into a well improved and highly productive farm. On this he passed the remainder of his days, dying at a good old age and leaving behind him the priceless legacy of a good name and in addition a valuable monument to his thrift and enterprise in the excellent farm which he had redeemed from the wilderness and made fruitful in all the products of advanced